AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10 and extending to page 11 of the originally-filed specification with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with the principles of the present invention, the packet switching gateway 113 may be embodied as an IP router 112, as illustrated in the conceptual block diagram of Figure 4, wherein the packet switching device 104 includes an IP router 112 that communicates with the ATM switch 118 through the ingress port 122. In this example, the interwork unit, i.e. the packet switching gateway, is a modem pool device. The IP router 112 may take the form of a modem pool device, for example. In this illustrative embodiment, the circuit switching device 102, which may be a 5ESS core, for example, offers IP communications capability for communications with the packet switching gateway 113, which, in this embodiment, is a modem pool device. It is also assumed that the ATM switch 118 does not include IP routing capability, and that a path between the ATM switch and the switching gateway 113 (modem pool device) is established. The physical path between the modem pool device, ~~116,~~ and the ATM switch, 118, can be done either through provisioning or through ATM signaling. Given these assumptions, the circuit switching device 102 may use a route index to identify which of its ports to employ in the loopback test. After determining which port to employ for the test, the circuit switching device 102 sends an IP packet to the switching gateway 113. The IP packet includes a special address that identifies the ATM egress port 114 to which the packet is to be addressed. That is, the source address within the IP datagram is used as the destination address, thereby creating a loopback. An incoming facility, x, is also employed to identify to the switching gateway 113 the address and channel number, y, of the ATM switch's egress port 113.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11 and extending to page 12 of the originally-filed specification with the following amended paragraph:

Upon receipt of the IP datagram identified as a loopback datagram, the IP router 112 swaps the source and destination IP addresses of the received datagram, thereby looping the datagram back to the source. If the datagram sent to the IP router 112 was an ICMP type 8 message, the router will return an ICMP type 0 response in order to satisfy the "Ping" requirements. Additionally, the IP router 112 will set up an entry in its routing table 117, an internal entry not included in neighborhood hello messages, that includes a facility address and channel number for a loopback. This routing message will eventually time out and be removed from the routing table 117. The received IP datagram may be converted to ATM cells or encapsulated as a frame relay packet set to the virtual path identifier/virtual channel identifier (VPI/VCI) or data link connection identifier (DLCI) that is connected to an ATM egress port which loops back everything it receives. Since the IP router 112 swaps source and destination addresses in the IP datagram, the datagram is routed to the new routing entry (the source address) and the IP ping response (ICMP type 0) is returned to complete the loopback test.